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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Reports

[Item#1](#)

Coping with a Nuclearizing Iran. RAND Corporation. James Dobbins et al. November 28, 2011.

Some time in the coming decade, Iran will probably acquire nuclear weapons or the capacity to quickly produce them. The report provides a midterm strategy for dealing with Iran that neither begins nor ends at the point at which Tehran acquires a nuclear weapon capability. It proposes an approach that neither

acquiesces to a nuclear-armed Iran nor refuses to admit the possibility, indeed, the likelihood, of this occurring.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2011/RAND_MG1154.pdf [PDF format, 156 pages].

Item#2

Darkening Skies on the Road to Durban - Part II. YaleGlobal. Andrea Armeni. November 23, 2011.

In tackling climate change, the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change must negotiate among parties that are poles apart and the equally vehement interests of developers and conservationists. The brief analyzes challenges awaiting the leaders headed for Durban, including the need for global cooperation and the cross-border nature of so many interests. Armeni analyzes the pivotal battleground of the Amazon. Divided among nine nations and home to more than 30 million, the Amazon is a huge carbon sink and considered the lungs of the world. But it's also a vast source of natural wealth, offering potential for mining, tourism, timber, agriculture development and more. Nearly half of the Amazon is under protection as indigenous lands or nature preserves, and Armeni advocates that planning include the region's indigenous people. Coordinating the Amazon's 400 diverse indigenous cultures, though, could be as challenging as securing a global response from the nearly 200 nations meeting in Durban.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/darkening-skies-road-durban-part-ii> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

Designing High Quality Evaluation Systems for High School Teachers. Center for American Progress. John H. Tyler. November 29, 2011.

The report examines the challenges and potential solutions to evaluating high school teachers.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/11/pdf/high_school_evaluation.pdf [PDF format, 40 pages].

Item#4

More Now Disagree with Tea Party - Even in Tea Party Districts. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. November 29, 2011.

Since the 2010 midterm elections, the Tea Party has not only lost support nationwide, but also in the congressional districts represented by members of the House Tea Party Caucus. The Republican Party's image also has declined substantially in Tea Party districts.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/2011/11/29/more-now-disagree-with-tea-party---even-in-tea-party-districts/?src=prc-headline> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

Numbers of Doctorates Awarded in the United States Declined in 2010. National Science Foundation. Mark K. Fiegener. November 2011.

U.S. academic institutions awarded 48,069 research doctorates in 2010, down from 49,554 awards in 2009 and the first decline in doctorates awarded since 2002. The 2010 decline was magnified by the recent reclassification of many Doctor of Education (EdD) degree programs from the research doctorate to the professional doctorate category, and consequently the discontinuation of data collection from the reclassified degree programs by the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED). The reclassification resulted in a substantially lower number of doctorates awarded in education than would have been the case had the graduates of the reclassified EdD degree programs participated in the 2010 SED. The total number of doctorates awarded in fields other than education also declined from 2009 to 2010, but by a much smaller amount than the decline in number of education doctorates.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf12303/nsf12303.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

Item#6

Presidential Memorandum -- Managing Government Records. The White House. November 28, 2011.

memorandum begins an executive branch wide effort to reform records management policies and practices. Improving records management will improve performance and promote openness and accountability by better documenting agency actions and decisions. Records transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) provide the prism through which future generations will understand and learn from our actions and decisions. Modernized records management will also help executive departments and agencies (agencies) minimize costs and operate more efficiently. Improved records management thus builds on Executive Order 13589 of November 9, 2011 (Promoting Efficient Spending), which directed agencies to reduce spending and focus on mission critical functions.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/28/presidential-memorandum-managing-government-records> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

The Role of Hydroelectric Power in the United States. U.S. Energy Information Administration. November 29, 2011.

The importance of hydropower as a source of electricity generation varies by geographic region. While hydropower accounted for 6% of total U.S. electricity generation in 2010, it provided over half of the electricity in the Pacific Northwest. Because hydroelectric generation relies on precipitation, it varies widely from month to month and year to year.

http://www.eia.gov/energy_in_brief/hydropower.cfm [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

Teaching Children Well. Center for American Progress. Robert C. Pianta. November 29, 2011.

In the clutter of claims and tools for improving teachers' impacts, it is critical that state and district superintendents, principals, school boards, and reform leaders grasp the importance of their choices and direct their attention to evidence-supported models.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/11/pdf/piana_report.pdf [PDF format, 36 pages].

Item#9

Toppling of Libyan Dictator Legitimizes R2P Doctrine. YaleGlobal. Bennett Ramberg. November 29, 2011.

The war in Libya broke new ground, lending support for the international community to take a strong stand against dictators who threaten their own people. Ramberg analyzes recent wars and how intervention in Libya compares. After horrific massacres in Rwanda and Srebrenica, the Canadian government took the lead in 2001, convening diplomats in drafting the Responsibility to Protect doctrine, or R2P, to authorize intervention within sovereign borders to prevent the large-scale loss of life. Though the U.N. Assembly had not finalized all R2P procedures, the international community was ready to act in March 2011, voting to intervene after Muammar Gaddafi threatened imminent assault on Benghazi. The international community's rapid coalescence has put tyrants, notably Syria's, on notice.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/toppling-libyan-dictator-legitimizes-r2p-doctrine> [HTML format, various paging].